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1812
MESSAGE

FROM THE
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,
TRANSMITTING
A LETTER FROM CAP. BAINBRIDGE,
NOW
COMMANDING U. STATES' FRIGATE CONSTITUTION,
REPORTING
HIS CAPTURE AND DESTRUCTION
OF
THE BRITISH FRIGATE "THE JAVA."

FEBRUARY 22d, 1813.

Referred to the Committee on Naval Affairs.

WASHINGTON CITY:

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1813.

John P. H. P. S.

*To the Senate and House of Representatives of
the United States.*

I LAY before Congress a letter, with accompanying documents, from Captain Bainbridge, now commanding the United States frigate "the Constitution," reporting his capture and destruction of the British frigate "the Java." The circumstances and the issue of this combat, afford another example of the professional skill and heroic spirit which prevail in our naval service. The signal display of both, by Captain Bainbridge, his officers, and crew, command the highest praise.

This being a second instance in which the condition of the captured ship, by rendering it impossible to get her into port, has barred a contemplated reward of successful valor, I recommend to the consideration of Congress, the equity and propriety of a general provision, allowing, in such cases both past and future, a fair proportion of the value which would accrue to the captors, on the safe arrival and sale of the prize.

JAMES MADISON.

February 22d, 1813.

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*Commodore Bainbridge to the Secretary of the
Navy.*

U. STATES FRIGATE CONSTITUTION,

ST. SALVADORE, 3d January, 1813.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to inform you, that on the 29th ult. at 2, P. M. in south latitude 13.06, and west longitude 38, about ten leagues distance from the coast of Brazils, I fell in with and captured His Britannic Majesty's frigate Java, of 49 guns, and upwards of 400 men, commanded by Captain Lambert, a very distinguished officer. The action lasted 1 hour 55 minutes, in which time the enemy was completely dismasted, not having a spar of any kind standing. The loss on board the Constitution was 9 killed and 25 wounded, as per enclosed list. The enemy had 60 killed and 101 wounded certainly (among the latter Captain Lambert, mortally); but by the enclosed letter written on board this ship (by one of the officers of the Java), and accidentally found, it is evident that the enemy's wounded must have been much greater than as above stated, and who must have died of their wounds previously to their being removed. The letter states 60 killed and 170 wounded.

For further details of the action, I beg leave to refer you to the enclosed extracts from my journal. The Java had, in addition to her own crew, upwards of 100 supernumerary officers and seamen to join the British ships of war in the East Indies; also Lieutenant General Hislop, appointed to the command of Bombay, Major Walker and

Captain Wood of his staff, and Captain Marshall, master and commander in the British navy, going to the East Indies to take command of a sloop of war there.

Should I attempt to do justice by representation, to the brave and good conduct of all my officers and crew, during the action, I should fail in the attempt; therefore, suffice it to say, that the whole of their conduct was such as to merit my highest encomiums. I beg leave to recommend the officers particularly to the notice of government, as also the unfortunate seamen who were wounded, and the families of those brave men who fell in the action.

The great distance from our own coast, and the perfect wreck we made the enemy's frigate, forbid every idea of attempting to take her to the United States, I had, therefore, no alternative but burning her, which I did on the 31st ult. after receiving all the prisoners and their baggage, which was very tedious work, only having one boat left (out of eight), and not one left on board the Java. *a/e*

On blowing up the frigate Java, I proceeded to this place, where I have landed all the prisoners on their parole, to return to England and there remain until regularly exchanged, and not to serve in their professional capacities in any place or in any manner whatever against the United States of America, until their exchange shall be effected.

I have the honor to be,

Sir, with the greatest respect,

(Signed)

W. BAINBRIDGE.

COPY.

List of killed and wounded on board the United States frigate Constitution, under the command of Commodore Wm. Bainbridge, in an action with his B. M. frigate Java, Henry Lambert, esq. commandant. December 29, 1812.

KILLED.

Jonas Ongram, seaman
Joseph Adams, do.
Patrick Conner, do.
Barney Hart, do.
John Cheeves, do.
Mark Snow, do.
John D. Allen, do.
William Cooper, do.
Thomas Hanson, private marine

(Signed)

R. C LUDLOW, *Purser.*
WM. BAINBRIDGE.

WOUNDED.

Wm. Bainbridge, esq commander,	severely
John C. Aylwin, lieutenant,	do.
Charles T. Waldo, master's mate,	do.
Peter Woodbury, quarter master,	do.
John Clements, seaman,	do.
Joseph P. Cheeves, do.	do.
Nicholas Vintram, do.	slightly
William Long, do.	dangerously

Stephen Webb, seaman	dangerously
Reuben Sanders, do.	do.
Joseph Ward, do.	severely
William Weaden, do.	slightly
Enos Bateman, do.	dangerously
James D. Hammond, do.	slightly
Peter Venus, do.	severely
Stephen Shepherd, do.	slightly
Abyah Eddy, do.	do.
Philip Cook, do	do.
Philip Brimblecom, do.	severely
Samuel Brown, ordinary seaman	do
Daniel Hagan, do	do.
Thomas Williams, 3d do.	slightly
John Voyle, do.	severely
Anthony Reaver, private marine	slightly
John Etwell, do.	do.

(Signed)

AMOS A. EVANS, *Surgeon.*

R. C. LUDLOW, *Purser.*

WM. BAINBRIDGE.

The following is a list of his B. M. military and naval officers, &c. paroled at St. Salvadore (Brazils) by Commodore William Bainbridge. January 3, 1813.

1 Lieutenant general	}	Military officers.
1 Major		
1 Captain		
1 Post captain		
1 Master and commander		
5 Lieutenants	}	Naval officers.
3 Lieutenants of marines		
1 Surgeon		
2 Assisting surgeons		
1 Purser		
15 Midshipman		
1 Gunner		
1 Boatswain		
1 Master		
1 Carpenter		
2 Captains' clerks		

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- 38
- 323 Petty officers, seaman, marines, and boys, exclusive of nine Portuguese seamen, liberated and given up to the Governor of St. Salvadore, and three passengers, private characters, whom the Commodore did not consider prisoners of war, and permitted them to land without any restraint.